

...YOU
ALWAYS GET
PICKED ON,
WHETHER
YOU'RE IN
GERMANY
OR JAPAN?

DO YOU
KNOW
WHY...



W
R
O
N
G
!!

I STAND OUT
CUZ I'M A
SHRIMP AND
A QUARTER
GERMAN?

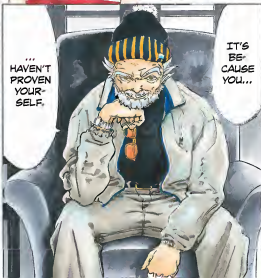
THIS'S
FOR YOU.
IT'S BRAND-
NEW.



WHAT
IS IT?

...
HAVEN'T
PROVEN
YOUR-
SELF.

IT'S
BE-
CAUSE
YOU...



**JUMP
START!**

A TASTE OF WHAT'S
NEW IN JAPAN

FULL DRIVE

BY GENKI ONO



CHAPTER 1: DAN TAMASHIRO



COOL!



IT'S A
TABLE
TENNIS
RACKET.
WANNA
PLAY
WITH
ME?



WHOOASH!!



AN AIRPORT
IN GERMANY...

OH, GEEZ.
IT GOT
ALL OVER
YOUR
RACKET
TOO!

ARE
YOU
MAD?

MY
BAD, KID.
YOU'RE
SO SHORT
THAT I
DIDN'T
SEE YA
THERE.



NAH.

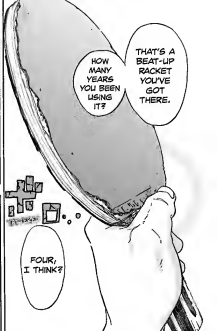
I WASN'T
BEING
CAREFUL
EITHER.

ニヤッ
GRIN

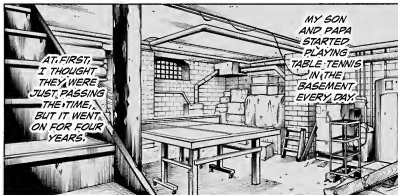


SPLAT
ビュッ











TOKYO—A CERTAIN STUDIO...





...
**MARIN
SHIRA-
ISHI!!**

**THE
GENIUS
TABLE
TENNIS
BEAUTY**

...



**...NEW
HEROINE
!!**



YUP. IT IS
MY JOB TO
COVER THE
STARS.

YOU'RE
HERE
AGAIN,
MATSU-
ZAKI?!



Eh
heh!

THEN
I CAN
HARDLY
BLAME
YOU FOR
COMING
TO ME!!



GREAT
WORK
TODAY,
MARIN!!

MONTHLY TABLE TENNIS KING
TOHRU MATSUZAKI



A GOOD
FRIEND
TIPPED
ME OFF
TO IT.

HAGEN
WULF
PASSED
AWAY?



EVEN
THE
ULTI-
MATE
TABLE
TENNIS
KING-
DOM...

...
CHINA
...



HE WAS
THAT
GERMAN
WORLD
CHAMPION
IN THE
SEVENTIES,
RIGHT?

OVER A
CAREER OF
ONLY FIVE
YEARS, HE
WON THE
WORLD
CHAMPION-
SHIP FOUR
TIMES.

YEAH.



...COULDN'T
REPRODUCE
THIS ONE
MAN'S
GENIUS!!



YOU'RE
A REAL
FANATIC
...

IT'S A
TRUE
LOSS
...



MAYBE
HE PLAYS
TABLE
TENNIS IN
GERMANY!!

BUT
THEY
SAY HE
HAS A
GRAND-
SON!!



ENOUGH
ABOUT
THAT!

IF I RE-
MEM-
BER
RIGHT,
HIS NAME
WAS...



...
AND
WAS
EVEN
SAID
TO BE
IMPOS-
SIBLE
TO
PREDICT
OR
DEFEND
!!

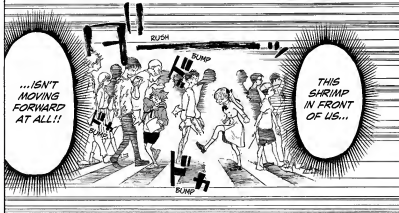
...
WOULD
DIG OUT
DEEP
TRAJEC-
TORIES
...

HIS
SUPER-
SPIN
HIGH-
SPEED
DRIVE...



THERE'S THIS STYLISH TABLE TENNIS CLUB. PERFECT FOR A PHOTO SHOOT, RIGHT?







BUT ...

... SEEING ALL THESE PEOPLE REALLY DRIVES IT HOME.

THIS SPACE CASE IS A LOST CAUSE.

YEAH, I GUESS YOU'RE RIGHT!

...

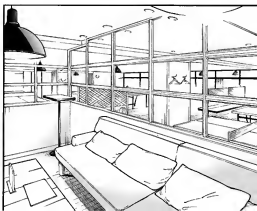
I JUST RUDELY INSULTED YOU!

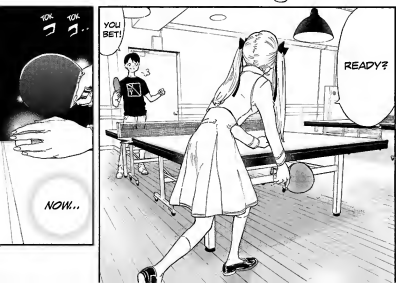
YOU SHOULDN'T BE APOLOGIZING!



IF YOU DON'T FIGHT ...

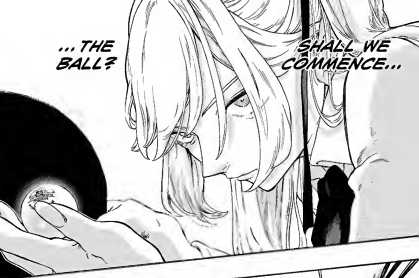
...YOU'LL GET LOST IN THE CROWD.





...THE
BALL?

SHALL WE
COMMENCE...



DANCE...







GEH !!

OH.

?

ULTRAQUICK
ATTACKING
STYLE!!

THE
FASTEST
STYLE
IN THE
FASTEST
SPORT
IN THE
WORLD...



THIS KID
IS NEXT
TO US?
REALLY?

HI.



REALLY
NOW...

I'LL GET
CHEWED
OUT IF I
DO IT AT
HOME.

WALL
PRAC-
TICE.

HE'S A
SPACE
CASE ALL
RIGHT...



TO DO
WHAT?

YUP.

ARE
YOU
HERE
ALONE?

?



...PRETTY GOOD?

IS HE...



A FAVORITE RACKET?!

IT'S BEAT TO HECK !!



HIS UPPER ARM MUSCLES

?!

... ARE WAY BIG-GER ON ONE SIDE.



WELL...

ONLY A LITTLE.

NEWBY

CAUGHT YOUR ATTENTION TOO?



FINE, LET'S SEE WHAT YOU'VE GOT.

TO TO

WALL PRACTICE?



BUT HIS RACKET HAS CLEARLY SEEN A LOT OF USE, AND THOSE MUSCLES...

INTERMEDIATE AND ADVANCED PLAYERS WOULD NEVER USE WORN-DOWN JUNK RUBBER LIKE THAT.

WHAT'S WITH THIS KID?!

How crude...



...A
SPACE-
CASE
TWERP
LIKE
THAT...

TO
BEGIN
WITH...

...COULD
NEVER BE
STRONG.

HOW
DO YOU
PLAY,
GRAMPA?

COME
ON
THEN!
PRACTICE!

YOU JUST
WATCH,
KIDDO.

!!





...
JUMPED
UP!!

THE
BALL
...

SPIN.



IT'S WHAT
ALLOWED
TABLE
TENNIS TO
PROVE
ITSELF.



YOW!

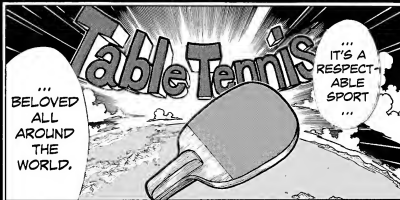




BUT
NOWA-
DAYS...

TABLE TENNIS
ORIGINATED
WHEN PEOPLE
COULDN'T PLAY
TENNIS BECAUSE
OF THE RAIN.

TO PLAY
AROUND,
TO KILL
TIME...
THAT'S
HOW IT
CAME
TO BE.



...
BELOVED
ALL
AROUND
THE
WORLD.

...
IT'S A
RESPECT-
ABLE
SPORT
...



WELL,
TABLE
TENNIS
ALSO
LOOKED
SMALL AT
FIRST.

YOU'RE
SMALL.



*IT'S
INCRED-
IBLE!!*



"THIS
GAME IS
INTER-
ESTING!!"

THAT'S
BECAUSE
IT
PROVED
ITSELF.

"THIS
GAME IS
DEEP!!"

WHY
DON'T
YOU
PROVE
IT?

YOU
CAN
GET
STRONG
TOO.

...
GAVE
ME
WAS
...

WHAT
GRAM-
PA...

PING-
PONG

WHAT
IS HE
TRYING
TO DO ?





AND
THAT'S
NOT
ALL

IT'S A
LOOP
DRIVE!



...ISN'T
NORMAL
!!

THE
AMOUNT
OF
SPIN...



TOX

!!



THIS
SPACE
CASE...

Leg
cramp
...



WHO
IS
THIS
KID
?!

HE
GOT
THAT
MUCH
SPIN
WITH
THAT
JUNK
RUB-
BER?

...
HAVE
PRIDE.



SO
YOU
DO
...

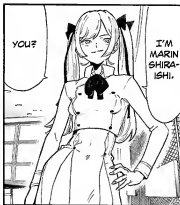


DAN
TAMA-
SHIRO.

I'M USED
TO BEING
UNDER-
ESTIMATED.

YOU?

I'M
MARIN
SHIRA-
ISHI.



WHERE
AND FROM
YOU DID
YOU LEARN
TO PLAY
TABLE
TENNIS?

DOPEY
FACE?

U STARE....

I'VE
NEVER
HEARD
OF YOU.

NEVER
SEEN YOUR
DOPEY
FACE
EITHER.





...IT'S
PING-
PONG.

MISS
MARIN,
IF
THERE'S
ANYTHING
I'M
STRONG
AT...

YES
!!

I
NEED
TO
ASK
YOU
ABOUT
HIM
ONE
MORE
TIME.

RIGHT
BACK
AT
YOU.

THAT'S
WHAT I
WANT TO
CHECK.

TAMA-
SHIRO...

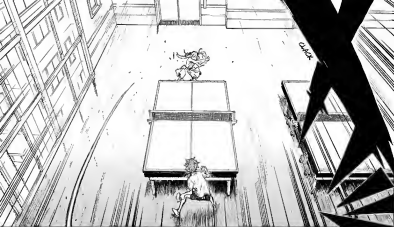
WITH
AN
OKINA-
WAN?

HE
WAS A
PRETTY
BIG
JAPAN-
OPHILE.

HE GOT
MARRIED
TO A
JAPANESE
WOMAN IN
GERMANY
...

HE HAD A
DAUGHTER,
RIGHT?











...THE
JEWEL OF
JAPAN'S
FEMALE
PLAYERS!!

BECAUSE
RIGHT
HERE, YOU
GOT TO
MEET ME,
MARIN...

BAM

THEN
I'LL
RETURN
THAT
STROKE
PERFECTLY
THE NEXT
TIME YOU
HIT IT!!

DO YOU
WANT ME
TO TEACH
YOU HOW
STRONG
I AM?

THE
JEWEL
...?

...ARE
BATTLING
IT OUT
BEFORE
MY VERY
EYES!!

...AND WOLF'S
GRANDSON...

THE JEWEL
OF JAPAN...

... THEN
DON'T
WAKE
ME UP

IF I'M
DREAMING
...

IT'S THE
SAME STROKE.
THE SAME
TRAJECTORY.

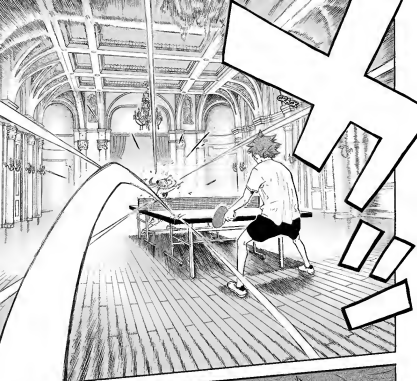
WINDOM

GLASS

A MAGNIFICENT
CHALLENGE!!

... THAN
JUST
TALK.

HE'S
MORE...



THE
JEWEL,
HUH?



OH?
SOME-
THING
THE
MATTER
?!



SHE'S REALLY
INCREDIBLE.

...
**FIRED
UP
NOW!!**

**I'M COM-
PLETELY**
...



...WILL I
BECOME
CONFIDENT?

IF I
GET
STRONG
AT PING-
PONG...





THE LOOP
DRIVE IS AN
AGGRESSIVE
TECHNIQUE.

IN WHICH
CASE...

...AGAINST
MR. WOLF'S
DRIVE ALL
THIS TIME?

HAS HE
BEEN
TRAINING...

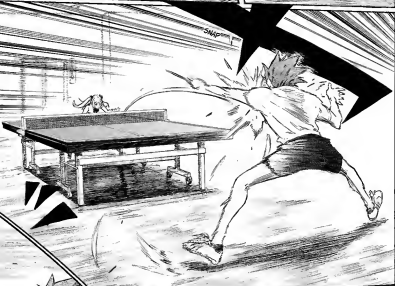


HERE
GOES,
DAN
TAMA-
SHIRO.

THAT'S
WHAT I
WANT TO
HEAR.









...GO
INTO
OVER-
DRIVE
!!

CLACK



MORE!!

YOU
CAN
HIT IT,
RIGHT
?!

GIVE ME
MORE!!

!!





AH!

FULL DRIVE!!

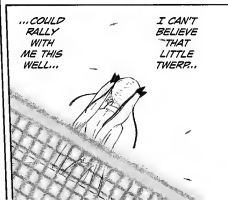


I UNDER-ESTIMATED HIM.



...HEAD-TO-HEAD FIGHT!!

WHAT A HIGH-LEVEL ...



...COULD RALLY WITH ME THIS WELL...

I CAN'T BELIEVE THAT LITTLE TWERR..







ALL KINDS
OF YOUNG
TALENTS-
POTENTIAL
FUTURE NATIONAL
TEAM PLAYERS-
ARE CONCENTRATED IN OUR
GENERATION.

IT'S LIKE
WE'RE RIVAL
WARLORDS
IN THE
WARRING
STATES
PERIOD.

IT'S THE
GOLDEN
TIME.







I...



GRAMPA.

